

Appl. No. : 09/854,067
Filed : May 10, 2001

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to merely clarify the invention. In Claim 1, the term "fabricated in advance" has been added to clarify "a preformed moisture-absorbing body." This amendment is merely for clarification because the moisture-absorbing body is preformed. The amendment neither raises the issue of new issue nor the addition of new matter to the application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objection

Claims 9 and 10 have been objected to because of the informalities set forth in the Office action. The Examiner has asserted that "the group" should be -- a group --. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. One acceptable form of alternative expression, which is commonly referred to as a Markush group, recites members as being "selected from the group consisting of A, B and C." See *Ex parte Markush*, 1925 C.D. 126 (Comm'r Pat. 1925). MPEP 2173.05(h).

Therefore, "the group" should be correct. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Boronson et al. (US 6,226,890). Claim 1 has been amended for clarification. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The present invention

In the present invention, a preformed moisture-absorbing body fabricated in advance is to used to be fixedly secured to at least one part of the gas-tight housing. In other word, the preformed body is formed out of the housing (not in the housing), and then secured to the housing.

When the preformed body is formed in the housing by using a blend comprising a desiccant and a resin component, degradation products (i.e., contaminants or impurities derived from a thermal decomposition of polymer (binder)) remain in the housing or enclosure.

However, since the preformed body fabricated in advance (e.g., by press-forming, extrusion, or granulation, page 7, lines 12-15 of the substitute specification) is used in the present invention, the problem caused by not only water but also the degradation products can be avoided. As a result, the EL device free of luminance aging or growth of dark spots can be provided according to the present invention. Further, the present invention can overcome untoward effects derived from impurities such as solvents, for example, aging of the performance of the desiccant absorbing residues of the solvent or the gradual evaporation of the residual solvent within the gas-tight housing (e.g., page 7, lines 18-20, and page 10, lines 14-16 of the substitute specification).

Boroson et al.

Boroson et al. discloses a method of desiccating an environment surrounding a moisture-sensitive electronic device sealed within an enclosure.

In Boroson et al., step (d) is required in all claims. The step (d) comprises casting a measured amount of the blend onto a portion of an interior surface of an enclosure to form a desiccant layer thereover. The blend contains desiccant particles and a binder which is in liquid phase or dissolved in liquid (see step (b) and (c) of claim 1).

In Boroson et al., the desiccant layer is formed directly onto the interior surface using the blend (see column 6, line 35 to column 7, line 4), not using a preformed body fabricated in advance.

As discussed above, when the desiccant layer is formed in the enclosure by using a blend comprising a desiccant and a resin component, degradation products (i.e., contaminants or impurities derived from a thermal decomposition of polymer (binder)) remain in the enclosure.

Since the desiccant layer in Boroson et al. is formed directly onto the surface by using the blend (e.g., melting blend, solution), the problem of luminance aging, growth of dark spots etc. will be caused by degradation products, solvents or the like. Therefore, the untoward effect can not be avoid in Boroson et al.

Thus, the preformed body is materially distinct as a product from a body formed within the housing.

In view of the foregoing, the present invention has unexpected advantage comparing to the invention of Boroson et al. Boroson et al. does not disclose the use of a preformed moisture-

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absorbing body fabricated in advance and the unexpected advantage thereby. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under § 102 be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boronson et al.

Claim 14, dependent ultimately on Claim 1, recites the distinct features of Claim 1, and additionally recites the use of polyolefin. As discussed above, Boronson does not teach or even suggest using "a preformed moisture-absorbing body fabricated in advance" recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 14 could not be obvious over Boronson et al. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 12, 2004

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